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United Nations reform: measures and proposals: the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

Letter dated 5 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am extremely regretful to inform you that H.E. Mr. Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is not able to participate in the Millennium Summit of the United Nations owing to the unprecedented hostile and obstructive acts on the part of the United States of America.

The President and his entourage were scheduled to arrive at John F. Kennedy Airport by American Airlines flight AA 175 on 4 September 2000, flying from Frankfurt, Germany, which schedule was certainly notified to the Protocol and Liaison Office of the United Nations and the United States Mission to the United Nations.

However, at the time of their passing through all departure procedures at Frankfurt Airport to embark on the airline, United States aviation security officials showed up all of a sudden, opened the suitcases and handbags of each member of the Presidential entourage, forced them to take off their clothes and shoes and thoroughly searched even the sensitive parts of the body, as if they were criminals.

They attempted to impose such a rude search even on the President.

When the Presidential entourage protested to the search in strong terms, the United States aviation security officials went so far as to say that, according to the instructions received from their superior, everyone from eight countries including North Korea labelled so-called "rogue States" should be subject to the above-mentioned search before boarding the flight. Afterwards, they cancelled the flight seats on their own will without any agreement with the Presidential entourage.

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Consequently, the President and his entourage could not continue their trip to New York to attend the Millennium Summit of the United Nations as scheduled, but returned home half way.

These acts of the United States are possible only by hooligans who have no regard at all for international law and practices. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a dignified country which regards independence as its life, cannot tolerate such encroachment upon its sovereignty by the United States.

If this kind of United States arbitrariness, based on a notion of "power is everything", is allowed to continue, the world will never be free from uneasiness.

The international community, aspiring to peace, prosperity and harmony at the onset of the new century, will express deep concern over these hooligan acts of the United States.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter and the enclosed text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex) circulated as a document of the United Nations Millennium Summit under sub-item (b) of item 61 of the provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, entitled "The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations".

(*Signed*) **Li** Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 5 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Pyongyang, 5 September, Juche 89 (2000))

There was a grave incident in which the President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and his entourage, on their way to the United Nations Millennium Summit, were compelled to return home from Frankfurt, Germany, unable to reach their destination owing to the obstructive manoeuvres of the Administrative Authority of the United States of America.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was scheduled to fly to New York by AA 175 (a regular flight of American Airlines), departing from Frankfurt, Germany, on 4 September to attend the United Nations Millennium Summit.

However, those who called themselves United States aviation security officials appeared all of a sudden and demanded defiantly that the delegation members, including the President, be subject to a search of their bodies and personal belongings because of the status of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a "rogue State", saying that they were acting according to instructions from their home country.

Such hooligan acts which ignore the international practices of travel and rudimentary protocol and courtesy for a dignitary representing a State constitute an unbearable insult to the sovereignty of a sovereign State and a flagrant challenge to the United Nations, as well as to the Millennium Summit organized by it.

The United States Administration issued entry visas to the President and his entourage, invited him to the reception to be hosted by the United States President and agreed to have some high-level Democratic People's Republic of Korea and United States contacts. But when the delegation actually left for New York, it blocked their entry into the United States under the pretext of the so-called "aviation security".

This is an indication that the hostile policy of the United States vis-à-vis the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains not only unchanged but rather becomes more vile and insidious.

Through this incident, it becomes very clear to us that the United States is not pleased with the expansion by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its external relations even though it is now talking about "improved bilateral relations" and suggesting that some talks be held in the immediate future.

All this stands clear testimony to the fact that the United States is, indeed, the most rogue and scoundrel State in the world.

It is quite natural that we exercise our sovereign right to take strong measures to counter robbery and brazen faced acts of the United States.

The United States will come to realize clearly how costly it is to offend the dignity of our people.